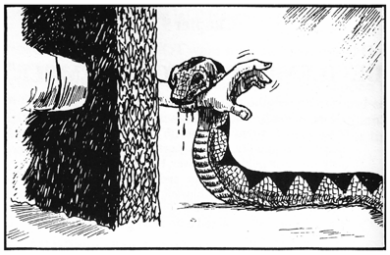
Hedges Can Be Broken



> **For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.**
> **1 Kings 11:4 (KJV)**

Solomon was a man who greatly pleased God in his early years but drifted away later. I believe this was a direct result of what initially started out as tolerance for the strange gods of his wives. He defiled himself by becoming unequally yoked to these women.

> **And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.**
> **1 Kings 3:11-12 (KJV)**

One of the lessons I have learned well is that God searches the heart and judges us by our intentions, so when we compromise the gospel for any reason it is a sin. Scripture tells us that Solomon was gifted like no other man in history with discernment between good and evil. His sin was in knowing perfectly well that his wives served false gods, yet tolerating it because of his own selfish desires for them.

> **Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.**
> **1 Kings 11:7-8 (KJV)**

Can you just imagine how Solomon rationalized his sin? "I will marry these women, but of course I will always serve the Lord my God" he likely told himself. We think we are so smart; we think we can play with fire and not get burned. Solomon ended up not only tolerating the strange gods of his wives but serving them! Molech (Moloch) is another name for Baal. The "high place" that Solomon built was used to sacrifice children to Baal! It is quite possible that he even sacrificed his own children to this god. And it all started with tolerance and a little rationalization.

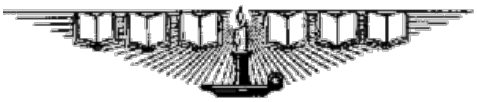
> **Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.**
> **Job 1:9-10 (KJV)**

> **He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.**
> **Ecclesiastes 10:8 (KJV)**

Folks, we cannot expect God to protect us from the wages of our sins if we knowingly engage in them. Yes, He places a hedge around His people, but scripture is clear; we can break that hedge of protection by willfully sinning. This is the essential error of the **"Once Saved, Always Saved"** doctrine, thinking that this hedge can never be broken, even by us.

> **But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**
> **Revelation 2:14 (KJV)**

This is precisely what occurred in the Old Testament story of Balaam in Numbers 22-24. Satan could not break the hedge set about Israel by God and destroy them; he had to get them to break that hedge themselves. He operates in the same way today against God's people. That is why Christ used the example of Balaam; as a warning to the end times church in the book of Revelation.

> **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**
> **1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)**

Satan is constantly seeking to devour us, but we can be assured that Christ will never allow him to break that hedge. The only way it may be broken is by us. We must remain constantly vigilant and on guard; we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into spiritual slumber by the cares and temptations of this world.